

SAVE OUR SOUND

alliance to protect nantucket sound

June 5, 2006

Rodney E. Cluck, Ph.D.
Cape Wind Project Manager
Minerals Management Service
Department of Interior
381 Elden Street, MS 4042
Herndon, Virginia 20170-4817

Re: Request for Public Meetings/Comment Period Extension

Dear Dr. Cluck:

On behalf of the Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound, I am writing to request that the Minerals Management Service (MMS) conduct public hearings on Cape Cod, Massachusetts regarding the May 30, 2006, Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Cape Wind Project and extend the comment period for a total of 90 days. In addition to the strong public concern over this proposal, significant new developments have occurred since the insufficient Army Corps of Engineers NEPA process, justifying the need for public hearings and a comment period extension.

As the MMS is aware, the Cape Wind project has been a highly controversial matter of serious concern for the public, in general, and residents and visitors to the Cape and Islands, in particular. When the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers first issued its Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS on January 30, 2002, it provided a public hearing for the scoping process on March 7, 2002, in West Yarmouth, Massachusetts. In addition, the Corps provided public hearings for Cape Wind's related request to construct a so-called "data tower." These meetings were heavily attended, despite being held during the low season, when most seasonal residents were not present on the Cape.

It is also the case that many organizations and individuals on the Cape and Islands have interest in commenting on both the MMS PEIS scoping notice and on the Cape Wind DEIS scoping notice. Conducting these two important scoping periods on almost identical comment timelines places an undue burden on those who plan extensive response to both.

In addition to these clear justifications for public hearings and an extended comment period, the many new issues, developments, and sources of information that have emerged since the Corps' DEIS also call for a more open and responsive public review

4 Barnstable Road, Hyannis, Massachusetts 02601